

Opportunity to lead global research portfolio for the CGIAR Consortium and impact the future of hundreds of millions

CGIAR is a global agriculture research partnership for a food secure future. Its science is carried out by 15 research centers, members of the CGIAR Consortium, in collaboration with hundreds of partner organizations. Kincannon & Reed has been retained to identify key candidates for the role of Senior Scientific Officer (SSO) Policy / Economics, who will be responsible to develop and manage a multi-hundred million dollar portfolio of research over the next 3-4 years and work through the CGIAR Centers to successfully implement the research programs. The title of this position understates its potential impact, as it is responsible for a research portfolio valued in the hundreds of millions of dollars and is critical to the future of agricultural development around the world, and thus the nutrition, health, education, livelihood, and future of hundreds of millions of people.

The Organization

The 15 research centers have over 8,000 staff based in over 50 countries. Together with the new CGIAR Fund they built a common vision for reducing rural poverty and food insecurity, improving nutrition and health, and ensuring a more sustainable management of natural resources in the developing world through agricultural research. This common vision is implemented through 15 new CGIAR Research Programs (CRPs).

The Consortium Office in Montpellier has an overall coordination, facilitation, and leadership role with respect to the entire portfolio of these 15 research programs. The main responsibilities of this science team are to enhance the scientific coherence, relevance, and effectiveness of the portfolio of CRPs, its alignment with the organization's strategy, and to monitor and report on the performance of the programs and of the portfolio as a whole. This team develops a scientifically robust and financially attractive portfolio of scientific investments that delivers essential development outcomes, in line with the organization's overall goals and objectives, and monitors the portfolio's performance and its evolution. In addition, the team provides strategic advice on scientific or economic matters to the Consortium Board (CB) and implements its decisions.

The Science team's role at CG Headquarters is rapidly evolving. As a result of the consortium becoming much more of a granting organization, the Senior Science Officer (SSO) will be involved in the development of future CRP proposals, developing and managing grant agreements and ensuring their successful implementation. Each SSO in the headquarters office has a different scientific background.

The Position

The Science team at the Consortium Office works at two main levels. At the program level, based on his or her understanding of trends and opportunities in science/economics and in development challenges, the SSO will seek out and develop investment opportunities in international agricultural research that produce science, policy, and technology based innovations that deliver on key development outcomes. The SSO will work with the proposers to ensure that high quality and effective research proposals are developed. He or she will negotiate outcomes that bring "value for money", and monitor those investments. Working through the Consortium Board, the SSO advises investors on resource allocation, always seeking that with the greatest impact.

Secondly, at the portfolio level, the Science team steers the entire package towards increased effectiveness, efficiency, relevance, and scientific/economic innovation and quality. The SSO will identify and bring about new concerted actions on cross-cutting strategic issues and simple, non-bureaucratic mechanisms to address research gaps and create scientific synergies in the portfolio. He or she will shape and implement a robust monitoring system, aligned with the performance measurement system the Consortium is designing. In so doing, this SSO will produce Consortium research policies, guidelines, and standards that facilitate increased coherence and impact, while identifying increased efficiencies through the strategic sharing of research infrastructure across CRPs. The SSO will also represent the Consortium at high-level international scientific meetings.

The SSO Policy / Economics will be responsible for the CRP portfolio subsets including Dryland Systems, Humid Tropics, Aquatic Systems, and Policies, Institutions, and Markets.

The SSO Policy / Economics will provide leadership in activities and deliverables that focus on the economics and social science research and for the evolving CGIAR research monitoring and evaluation system, providing strategic advice to the Chief Scientific Officer on a range of issues cutting across the research portfolio.

Position Duties

- Contribute to and lead teams' activities and deliverables that focus on socio-economic research.
- Responsibility for specific programs; the SSO will also develop future CRP proposals, develop grant agreements, and manage grants.
- Take the lead in the organization for economic and social science research (including policy, value chains, valuation of ecosystem services).
- Provide scientific leadership for the evolving CGIAR research monitoring and evaluation system.
- Provide strategic advice to the Chief Scientific Officer on a range of issues cutting across the research portfolio, and represent the Consortium at appropriate external scientific meetings.

Candidate Profile

We seek a PhD in economics/policy with more than 10 years of international experience conducting research and leading/managing research programs in developing countries (food security, poverty alleviation, and natural resources management). This should include successful experience working with biological scientists, as well as grant development and management experience. Previous experience designing and implementing a large-scale research monitoring system will be a strong plus.

Personal Characteristics:

- Demonstrated leadership and strategic thinking skills and established international scientific reputation (e.g., refereed publications, successful experience introducing innovations, linking science with policy).
- Demonstrated ability to lead through influence and the power to convince instead of through traditional hierarchical mechanisms.
- Demonstrated ability to communicate effectively with scientists, from very experienced to junior, from a large range of disciplines and cultures; gravitas to communicate with large international scientific audiences.
- Impeccable oral and written communications and presentation skills.
- Strong interest in facilitating change, including cultural change, in the implementation and evolution of a large scale and multi partnerships research agenda.

For consideration as a candidate or to suggest a prospective candidate, please contact in confidence:

Dave Jensen
Managing Director
928-282-5366 (office)
928-274-2266 (mobile)
djensen@krsearch.net

David Turner
Managing Director
480-363-2914 (office)
480 363-2914 (mobile)
dturner@krsearch.net

Greg Dooman
Senior Associate
703-779-3544 (office)
703-727-1220 (mobile)
gdooman@krsearch.net